

State of Connecticut
Department of Correction
Program Development

Alphabetical Listing of Programs for CHESHIRE CI

Addiction Services Aftercare Program

Description

The aftercare program is available to inmates following completion of Tier 3 or Tier 4 programs. It is designed to provide a continuum of care and maintenance of a recovery identity, which fosters independence, personal responsibility, and application of relapse prevention skills.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Addiction Services Tier 2 Intensive Outpatient Program

Description

The Tier 2 Program is an intensive outpatient Addiction Services program with 30 curriculum sessions for 10 weeks. Group components are held three times weekly and incorporate weekly fellowship meetings to lay the foundation of basic substance abuse information, promote personal identification with recovery, and motivate further treatment involvement.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Addiction Services Tier 3 Daycare Program

Description

The Tier 3 Program is a Addiction Services program with group components held four times a week for sixteen weeks (64 curriculum sessions), and weekly fellowship meetings.

As a part of the treatment plan, participants are expected to have a job or attend school when not attending groups. Treatment services are provided primarily in a group setting. Evaluation and, as needed, crisis intervention is conducted in individual counseling sessions.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Description

ABE is the primary program of instruction designed to provide training in basic academic skills in the areas of reading, mathematics, language arts, general science and social studies. The program is directed toward increasing proficiency to the eighth grade level.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Alcoholics Anonymous

Description

This is a 12-Step Fellowship self-help group for men and women who provide mutual support in obtaining and maintaining sobriety while also helping others to recover from alcoholism. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Big Book, Step Meetings, Speaker, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Apprenticeship Programs

Description

Apprenticeships in concert with the Labor Department are offered in thirty-six programs at twelve sites. These programs range in length from six months to three years. Vocational students earn apprenticeship credit and upon completion of a program are awarded a prospective apprenticeship certificate by the Connecticut Labor Department.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition, Vocational Education

Artists In Residence

Description

Accomplished artists provide inmates with an introduction to the basic principles of fine art. Volunteer Artists-In-Residence within correctional institutions bring art behind bars and serve to broaden inmates' abilities to express themselves by developing talents or skills in drawing, painting, music and creative writing. Inmate artwork is collected annually by a Prison Art Program Curator from Hartford's Community Partners in Action (CPA) which operates this service solely through the support of grants from local foundations, corporations and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. This art collection is arranged for exhibition in community spaces across the state. The CPA also publishes an annual journal of arts in correction serving to bring creative writing, poetry and visual art produced by inmates to the broader community.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Volunteer Services

Types:

Self Improvement

Beyond Fear

Description

This is an AIDS education program utilizing a curriculum, printed materials, and an educational video developed by the Department of Public Health. The program is delivered by a contracted outside agency, and funded through the Department of Public Health.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Health Services

Types:

Health Education

Bicycle & Wheelchair Repair

Description

This program teaches inmates to repair wheelchairs and train to become bicycle mechanics. Work is done for state agencies that use wheelchairs and refurbish bicycles for donations to children.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Community Service, Vocational Education

Braille Program

Description

The Braille Program enables inmates in Protective Custody to learn a new skill and to use that skill to help the blind people of Connecticut. The objective of this program is to train and form a pool of qualified braille writers to provide support in a voluntary manner to the Connecticut Braille Association, to certify those braille writers that complete the required training and to maintain such skills once obtained in order to provide them with marketable skills for the future.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Community Service, Vocational Education

Bridging the Gap

Description

Alcoholics Anonymous is one of the most important self-help resources for alcoholic men and women. A very important first step for inmates being released into the community is attending the first meeting as soon as possible following release. Addiction Services staff in the institution utilize a toll-free telephone number to get information about the nearest AA meeting location, along with the name of a contact person. An AA member then will contact the inmate upon release and even provide transportation to a meeting.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Business Education

Description

This program prepares students for entry-level employment requiring basic business skills.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Catholic Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Catholic Faith Sharing

Description

Participants in this program use the Small Christian Community Booklet as a guide for sharing their Catholic Faith.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar

Description

This is a weekend faith development seminar held twice yearly.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Catholic Mass

Description

This is the weekly Catholic worship service.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Catholic Studies

Description

Participants in this program study materials from the Confirmation Lesson Plan Guide. This study prepares students for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Commercial Cleaning

Description

This thirty-week program focuses on basic and advanced commercial cleaning procedures. The program covers the chemistry of cleaning, handling of hazardous and infectious waste, and the basic cleaning procedures for floor, tile, carpeted areas and restrooms. In phase two, the student is taught advanced procedures for maintaining all types of surfaces, as well as the necessary skills to recognize and operate various types of equipment. Graduation from this program can assist inmates in obtaining a job in the community.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Computer Repair

Description

A+ Certification in Computer Repair means that students will possess the skills, knowledge, and customer relations skills essential to be a successful computer service technician, as defined by experts from companies across the industry. The Computer Repair Course covers a broad range of hardware and software technologies. It trains student to satisfy the standards of the computer industry and readies them to later become A+ Certified.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Decisions

Description

This program is designed to encourage youth to explore their personal attitudes, choices, behaviors, and consequences through oral presentations, discussions, role play, and facility tours. Inmates are afforded the opportunity to give back to the community by sharing their behaviors that led to incarceration.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Community Service, Self Improvement

Discussion Group

Description

This program allow inmates the opportunity to discuss and reflect on current lifestyle issues in an open forum, which helps them understand the situation they have created as well as permit views and suggestions from other inmate participants and approved volunteer facilitators.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Religious Services

Types:

Self Improvement

Educational, Career Resources and Job Fairs

Description

These types of Fairs are conducted in the form of a professional conference for students. The educational staff invite a keynote speaker and students proceed to attend individual workshops on a variety of topics. The goal of these Fairs is to assist inmates with their transition plans before they return to the community.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Embracing Fatherhood

Description

Embracing Fatherhood is a program designed to assist incarcerated fathers in gaining awareness of the important role they play in the lives of their children. This awareness will enable participants to successfully embrace their roles as fathers and begin to build healthy lifestyles that will benefit both their children and them.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Volunteer Group

Types:

Family

Family Education & Parenting

Description

This program is designed to help inmates with children become responsible parents. Inmates have classes in parenting skills and in some cases read children's books into audio or video-cassettes to send home to their children. Components of the parenting skills classes include parenting from a distance, discipline techniques, and communicating with children.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Family

General Educational Development (GED)

Description

The GED is the primary program of instruction for students functioning above an eighth grade level who wish to earn a State of Connecticut high school diploma through the examination process. GED Tutors and volunteers assist Department teachers by helping inmates prepare for the GED Exam and/or by helping to teach basic language skills.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Graphics Arts Center

Description

This shop produces all types of signage and engraving. Using technologies such as silk-screening and laser engraving, the shop has been able to produce highly technical, complex products. This training and "real world" work experience prepares inmates for obtaining and maintaining a job in the community. Twenty-five inmates are employed in this center. A community service is provided to governmental agencies and non-profit agencies by providing products for them at considerable cost savings.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut

Types:

Institutional Employment, Vocational Education

HIV Counseling, Testing & Risk Reduction Education

Description

When inmates are tested for HIV, the department provides standardized counseling by Department of Public Health certified counselors before and after testing. Counseling components include what HIV and AIDS are, how to get it, how to avoid getting it, what it means to be HIV positive, how to take care of oneself if one is HIV positive, and help in dealing with the associated feelings.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

HIV Support Services

Description

The Department demonstrates a collaborative approach in providing HIV support services to inmates in all facilities. A UCONN (Contracted) Health Services Team coordinates testing and counseling services; the Department's School District conducts classroom instruction about HIV; the Department's Addiction Services Unit Counselors provide HIV education and prevention counseling; a number of volunteers serve as "buddies" or sponsors; and Hartford's Community Partners in Action (CPA) receives funding from foundations, grants as well as support from the state's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to operate the "Beyond Fear" Program. Altogether the Department hosts a complete program that includes counseling, testing, education focus groups, videos, intervention strategies and is able to assist discharging inmates with need for such services as housing, medical treatment, food, clothing and transportation.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

Horticulture Program

Description

This course explores the "green industry" and the occupations associated with this field. A variety of skills will be instructed and practiced in preparation for students to enter the trade. Subject areas include the botany of plants and their identification; the design and construction of landscapes; the study of insect pests, pest control and safe use of pesticides; the practice of landscape maintenance and turf management; bedding plant production and greenhouse operations and safe work practices and workplace safety techniques. These skills are easily transferred to the outside job market.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Inmate Photo Program

Description

Inmates register each month to take either 35 mm or Polaroid photos for a small fee and these photos are sent home or otherwise kept for personal use. Proceeds that are generated are held in a Special Activity Fund. From this fund, thousands of dollars have been donated to local charitable organizations each year, e.g. women's shelters, children's hospitals, youth organizations, and youth at risk programs.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Community Service

Islamic (Quran) Study

Description

Quran readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Islamic principles.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Jehovah's Witness Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Jehovah's Witness principles.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Jewish Worship and Torah Studies

Description

Jewish Worship services and Torah studies are conducted weekly. During the Holy Days, services are celebrated under the supervision of the Religious Coordinator.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Jumah

Description

Jumah is the weekly Muslim worship service.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Life Skills Program

Description

This program utilizes teacher instruction and guest lectures to focus on topics needed for students to thrive positively in the community. Subjects such as parenting, job skills training, sexual harassment, HIV/AIDS awareness, cultural diversity and character education are addressed.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Self Improvement

Mailing Services

Description

This program utilizes bulk mail machinery. The machinery is the same as operated in the community for bulk mailing. Inmates with such experience are well positioned to get a job in the community. Four inmates are employed in Mailing Services.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut

Types:

Institutional Employment, Vocational Education

Marker Plate Manufacturing

Description

This manufacturing shop is the sole producer of vehicle plates to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This program provides inmates with an opportunity to work in a setting with all the demands of a private industry job, thus preparing them for a "real world" job. Inmates are required to learn to use hydraulic presses, stamping machines, and painting equipment.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut

Types:

Institutional Employment, Vocational Education

Micro Computers/Computer Education

Description

The MicroComputer Software Application Technology course is designed to provide students with an introduction to computer operations and with the application of various software packages and programs. Students begin by learning simple software programs and then progress to more sophisticated packages as their individual skills develop. Software programs introduced include but are not limited to the following: Access, Visual Basics, Adobe Pagemaker, Excel, WordPerfect, MicroSoft Works, Power Point, Micro-Soft Word, Micro-Soft for Windows, and PageMaker. Students design and complete projects using this software.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Narcotics Anonymous

Description

Narcotics Anonymous is a twelve-step fellowship of addicts helping addicts to recover from the disease of addiction. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Step Meetings, Speaker, Speaker/Discussion, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. The meetings are usually conducted by outside volunteers who share their story of addiction and recovery. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Native American Worship

Description

Sacred Circle is a community prayer, which includes smudging. It is celebrated weekly.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious, Worship Services

Native American Worship-Sweat Lodge

Description

Sweat lodge is a purification ceremony, which includes smudging. It is celebrated monthly.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Peer Mentor Program

Description

Peer Mentors are Tier program graduates who assist Addiction Services staff in the presentation of Tier program groups and 12-Step Fellowship groups. The primary purpose of Peer Mentors is to model a recovery lifestyle for other program participants. Weekly training meetings are required for all Peer Mentors.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Post-Secondary Programs

Description

College and Correspondence Courses are offered in an effort to encourage or prepare students for ongoing educational opportunities (Students pay a tuition and book fee for college courses). One of the main goals is to be able to provide well-behaved inmates an opportunity to be engaged in self-development.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Pre-Vocational

Description

This course of study centers around twenty-two hands-on introductory modules including carpentry, household electrical, plumbing, small engines, computer aided drafting and electronics. This is a course of study that provides a foundation upon which an inmate can build a vocation.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Protestant - Alpha Program

Description

Protestant - Alpha program meets weekly and is conducted by both volunteers and staff.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Service

Description

This is the weekly Protestant worship service.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Worship Services

Read to Your Children

Description

This program is designed to foster a bond between a child and his/her incarcerated parent. USD#1 creates and maintains a collection of children's books. Inmates can select from a book and read to their child during regular visiting hours. In some cases, inmates enrolled in school can read a book and be videotaped and then send the tape and book to the child.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Family

Sex Offender Program

Description

The Sex Offender Program is a specialized program for inmates who have committed a sexual assault. The program is provided by mental health staff with specialized training in the treatment of sex offenders. The overall goal of the program is to decrease sexual violence. The program teaches inmates about the nature of sexual assault, helping them develop an individualized relapse prevention strategy for themselves, helping them improve the quality of normal interpersonal relationships, helping them better manage their anger, and helping them develop victim empathy.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Anger Management, Sex Offender

Special Education and Pupil Services

Description

The special education teachers, pupil services specialists (School Psychologists, School Counselors, School Social Workers), and the associated clerical and durational staff provide services to students with handicapping conditions which interfere with their ability to participate in school. These services are mandated by federal (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997) and state (Connecticut General Statutes 10-76) statute. Special education services encompass a broad array of activities including assessment, counseling, transition planning, and both the direct and indirect (e.g. consultation) services of the special education teachers and pupil services staff. Student programs are designed according to the individual needs of each student with disabilities and are specified in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP.)

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Sponsorship Behind the Walls

Description

This program is designed for inmates participating in a 12-step recovery program. It enables participants to write to an outside sponsor in order to work the 12 steps of recovery.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Description

TESOL is an instructional program for students whose primary language is not English. TESOL instruction helps students to speak, read and write English or assists them in developing the language skills necessary for overall academic and vocational progress.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Tech Prep Program

Description

This is a program that offers opportunities for high school students to earn college credits through work with Community Colleges and USD#1 teachers.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Thinking for a Change

Description

This cognitive behavior program was developed by the National Institute of Corrections. It is designed to help inmates change the way they think, help inmates develop improved social skills, and help inmates learn problem-solving skills. Research links successful completion of such programs to reduced recidivism.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Self Improvement, Youth CDU

Thresholds

Description

This is a community-based therapeutic counseling system specifically designed for delivery by trained volunteers. It focuses on developing decision-making and problems-solving skills.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Volunteer Group

Types:

Self Improvement

Transition/School to Work

Description

The Transition/School to Work program's mission is to place participating students in employment and/or vocational/educational programs and to provide each student with a needs-based transition plan prior to his/her release to maximize potential for successful re-entry into society. School-based and work-based learning opportunities are provided through job and resource fairs, employment skills curriculum, sessions with transition counselors and meetings with a transition coordinator. A USD#1 brochure describing this program is available.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC)

Description

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC) is a program of Community Partners in Action which provides discharge planning for inmates with HIV/AIDS. TLC serves every prison and jail in the state, and works with clients returning to every region of the state. TLC case managers meet clients' emergency needs upon release, and connect them with services in their local communities for continuing care and assistance.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Health Services

Types:

Health Education, Transition

Victim-Offender Dialogue

Description

For a variety of reasons, it is sometimes helpful for victims to meet with offenders. The department's Victim Services Unit evaluates and when appropriate facilitates this dialogue. The process is designed to achieve the objectives of restorative justice, healing the victim, and confronting and holding the offender accountable. Although this process can often be very helpful to the inmate, all such dialogues are initiated at the request of victims.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Victim Services

Types:

Domestic Violence, Victim

Youth Offender Program

Description

Through the use of federal funds, post-secondary education and transition services are provided to "youth offenders" up to the age of 26 who are eligible for parole or release within five years. A transition counselor provides assistance and counseling to encourage participants to acquire functional literacy as well as life/job skills while in prison. Students participate in post-secondary classes, complete portfolios, and develop transition plans and placement.

Facility:

Cheshire CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education, Vocational Education